Construction of LPG Handling jotty in Outer Harbour of Visakhapatnam Port Trust.	July, 1992

Tiger Projects in the Country

3361. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of Tiger Projects in the country and the tiger population therein during last five years with percentage of growth;

(b) how far the growth of tiger population is maintained anticipated ratio and reasons for shortfall, if any;

(c) whether Government are aware that the poaching of tigers carried out to export not only pelts but also tiger bone powder to China; and

(d) if so, how many cases have been registered against the poachers and the tiger pelts exporters during last five years along with the effective measures proposed to curb these illegal activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Project Tiger is an ongoing scheme presently covering 19 reserves. The estimated population of tiger in 18 reserves as per last All India Census of 1989 is 1327. The average growth percentage between the years 1984 to 1989 is 0.4% per annum. This factor is however, related to the carrying capacity of the habitat which is linked with the biotic presssure over the area.

(c) There has been some unconfirmed reports of illegal export of tiger bones to some countries of Asia.

(d) The information regarding the cases of illegal poaching is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling to curb any illegal activity.

Health Hazards Due to Toxic Discharge in Betwa River

3362. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the various press reports appearing in some national dailies regarding thousands of people living along the Betwa river in Vidisha, Raisen etc. catchment areas in Madhya Pradesh are falling victim to various types of diseases caused by the discharge of industrial chemical toxins from the Mandideep Industries and the State administration despite knowing these health hazards is not taking any action; and

(b) if so, what are the details there of and what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The River Betwa gets polluted due to the discharge of effluent of some industries at Mandideep, but is cannot be concluded that people living along the catchment in Raisen, Vidisha etc. are falling victim to various types of diseases and health hazards. The problem of pollution is seasonal and it increases in summer due to low flow in the river.

(b) Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board has directed all polluting units to comply with the prescribed effluent standards within a time-frame. The Board has initiated legal action under the provisions of the Water (prevention and Control of Pollution act, 1974 against the defaulting units.